

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the heading on page 5, line 19 as follows:

| ~~SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION~~

Please amend the paragraph bridging lines 20-22 of page 5 as follows:

The above-described semiconductor laser element **200**, however, presents the following ~~advantages- disadvantages~~ as described below:

Please insert the following heading at page 10, line 15:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION